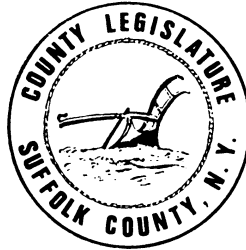


NEWS FROM Legislator

# Lou D'Amaro



SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
17<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
130 West Jericho Turnpike  
Huntington Station, NY 11746  
Tel: (631) 854-4433  
Fax: (631) 854-4415  
Lou.Damaro@suffolkcountyny.gov



COMMITTEES:

CHAIR – Budget & Finance

MEMBER – Veterans

For Immediate Release

Contact: Karen Klafter (631) 854-4433

## **Legislator D'Amaro Informs Residents: *HEAP Processing Begins in Mid-November***

(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY... October 17, 2016) – Temperatures will soon be dropping and many local residents may grow concerned about the ability to afford the high cost of heating their homes. That's why Suffolk Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) wants to inform local residents that the Suffolk County Office for the Aging will begin processing applications for the 2016-2017 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), which provides financial assistance for qualifying households, on Monday, November 14.

"Times are tough and our most vulnerable residents should never have to choose whether to heat their homes or put food on the table," D'Amaro said. "Luckily, the HEAP program will again provide much needed assistance to Suffolk County seniors struggling to cover their expenses."

Depending on the primary heating source, qualifying senior citizen homeowners can receive a basic HEAP benefit of between \$350 and \$626 for oil, propane, kerosene natural gas or electricity. Renters can receive a benefit of \$30 or \$35. Each year,

(more)

thousands of Suffolk County households receive assistance through HEAP. Assistance is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis while available.

Applications were already mailed out to households that received a benefit in last year's program. Individuals who have not previously received the benefit and wish to submit a new application to the Office for the Aging must meet one of the following conditions:

- Age 60 or older, or
- Under 60 and receiving Social Security Disability, or
- Under 60 and receiving Supplemental Security Income Code A.

To request an application, call the Office for the Aging HEAP Hotline at (631) 853-8326 after November 14.

Applicants who do not meet the Office for the Aging guidelines may still qualify based on HEAP Tier Income Guidelines for income and household size. A family's gross monthly household income must be at or below the poverty standards set by New York State for HEAP. For example, monthly income for a 1-person household cannot exceed \$2,300, for a 2-person household the limit is \$3,007 and for a 3, 4 or 5-person household it cannot exceed \$3,715, \$4,423 or \$5,130 respectively. For more information, call the Department of Social Services HEAP Unit at (631) 853-8820.

Non-emergency new applications can be obtained and completed in person at the Suffolk County Department of Social Services South West Center, located at 2 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Deer Park, (631) 854-6684/6685.

"I urge all residents who qualify or even think they may qualify to apply for this vital assistance," D'Amaro said.

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*Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro represents the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington, Huntington Station, South Huntington, Melville, West Hills, Cold Spring Hills, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is chairman of the Budget & Finance committee and a member of the Veterans committee of the Suffolk County Legislature.*